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COUNTRY Soviet Zone of Germany

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC Volkspolizei Units and Schools in the Dessau-Kochstedt Area25X1 EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT July 1950

25X1 DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 12 September 1950 25X1REFERENCES

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PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. In July 1950 it was learned that the 7th VP Bereitschaft (Inf) was stationed in Dessau (W 52/E 17)-Sued, the 8th VP Bereitschaft (Radio) and the 9th VP Bereitschaft (Telephone) in the former Flak Kaserne, Dessau-Kochstedt, which also housed a VP officers' school, a training course for VP NCOs and a motor pool. (1)
2. Chefinspekteur Freitag, (fnu), a former general, was commander of the Dessau VP post. (2) He was assisted by two Soviet Instrukturen who supervised VP activities.
3. The 8th VP Bereitschaft of about 1,300 police was organized in three Kommandos of three Abteilungen (companies) each. The Abteilungen were organized into Gruppen of 34 police each, including the commanding officer. The Gruppen were organized into Untergruppen of 11 police each, including the Untergruppen leader. (3)
4. The officers of the 8th VP Bereitschaft included Volkspolizeirat Wolk, (fnu), acting commanding officer, a former chimney sweep, who served with the navy as a signalman during the war; Oberkommissar Martiny, (fnu), commanding officer of 3rd Kommando, 25 years old, an ex-corporal; Kommissar Wernig or Werwig, (fnu), commanding officer of 3rd Abteilung of the 3rd Kommando; and VP Oberrat Dombrowski, (fnu), PK-Leiter of the Bereitschaft, a fanatic Communist.
5. The 8th VP Bereitschaft was poorly equipped, having only 30 German Army transmitting sets of all types in the 10, 30 and 80-Watt category and type-C telephones. A permanent radio station, strictly guarded by VP personnel, was also in Kochstedt.
6. Training, based on reprinted German Armed Forces manuals, was started on 13 January 1950 and was scheduled to be completed by late August 1950. Because the personnel had not previously received basic drill, the signal training was supplemented by basic infantry drill. A new training course was scheduled to start in September 1950.

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Auth. H.P. 12

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7. The training was rather low since most of the personnel had no particular aptitude for signal service. They had volunteered for service with artillery, infantry and horse-drawn units, but had been classified for signal service. Discipline and morale were bad. There were seven or eight desertions each week, and many others applied for discharge or transfer.

8. Nine VP units fell in in the area of the Flak Kaserne, Dessau-Kochstedt, about 7 a.m. on 27 July 1950. One unit, which later marched toward the town, was commanded by a Kommissar and organized into three 27-man groups. It was noticed that only the officers carried pistols.

9. About 350 VP personnel were in the Werkheim-Nord cantonment on 27 July 1950. The following units were seen:

- A unit of about 80 police equipped with two model 34 light machine guns, 57 carbines and 31 long spades, headed by a Kommissar and two Polizeimeister marching toward Gross-Kuehnau (M 52/B 07).
- A unit, also of about 80 police, headed by two Kommissars and an Oberwachtmeister, equipped with a model 08/15 light machine gun, a model 08 heavy machine gun, thirty-four 98-K carbines and 22 long spades, marching in the same direction.
- A third unit of the same strength, equipped with three model 34 light machine guns, seventy-five 98-K carbines, 14 long spades and about 80 wooden practice hand grenades, headed by a Kommissar and two Polizeimeister, marching toward Gross-Kuehnau.
- Six 10-man groups drilling in the camp area under the supervision of a Kommissar. (4)

10. Two VP Oberraete, five VP Raete, and 21 Oberkommissare and Komissare were assembled in an inn on the evening of 27 July 1950. All VP officers and police there had to produce their passes when a patrol of a VP Oberrat and two Kommissars entered about 9:30 p.m. The patrol officers wore a white brassard bearing the inscription "OVD" and a round stamp mark of the school on their upper right sleeves.

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Comments.

- The information on VP units stationed in the Dessau area agrees with previous reports. The 7th VP Bereitschaft, however, is in the Dessau/Nord cantonment on the road to Gross-Kuehnau. The NCO training course presumably belonged to the VP school in Kochstedt.
- VP Chefinspekteur Freitag, (fnu), has so far been carried as commandant of the VP school in Kochstedt. It is possible that he now holds both positions.
- The data on the 8th VP Bereitschaft (sig) confirm and supplement previous reports.
- The Werkheim-Nord billeting area is believed to house the entire 7th VP Bereitschaft (Inf). It is assumed that there are about 1,000 police in the camp.

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